Anno Regni GEORGII II.

REGIS

Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, & Hiberniæ,

DECIMO NONO.

At the Parliament begun and holden at *Weſtminſter*, the Firſt Day of *December*, *Anno Dom.* 1741, in the Fifteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord *GEORGE* the Second, by the Grace of God, of *Great Britain*, *France*, and *Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, *&c.*

And from thence continued by ſeveral Prorogations to the Seventeenth Day of *October*, 1745, being the Fifth Seſſion of this preſent Parliament.

LONDON:

Printed by *Thomas Baſkett*, Printer to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty; and by the Aſſigns of *Robert Baſkett*. 1746.

Anno decimo nono

Georgii II. Regis.

An Act for the better Encouragement of the Trade of His Majesty's Sugar Colonies in *America*.

FOR Advancement of the Trade of His Majesty's Kingdom of Great Britain, to and in the several British Sugar Colonies in the West Indies, in America, for the better Encouragement of His Majesty's Ships, and Private Ships of War, and the annoying and diminishing the Power and Wealth of His Majesty's Enemies in those Parts; and for the Increase of Shipping and Seamen for these and other Services; be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That no Mariner or other Person who shall serve on Board, or be retained to serve on Board any Privateer, or Trading Ship or Vessel, that shall be employed in any of the British Sugar Colonies in the West Indies, in America, nor any Mariner or other Person being on Shore in the said British Sugar Colonies, or any of them, shall be liable to be impressed or taken away, or shall be impressed or taken away, in or from any of the said British Sugar Colonies, or any of them, or any of the Ports thereof, or at Sea in those Parts, by any Officer or Officers of or belonging to any of His Majesty's Ships of War, impowered by the

Preamble.

Mariners belonging to Privateers, or Trading Ships, not to be impressed;

Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, or the Lords Commissioners for executing the Office of the Lord High Admiral of Great Britain for the time being, or any other Person whatsoever, unless such Mariner shall have before deserted from such Ship of War belonging to his Majesty, at any Time after the Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and forty six, upon Pain that any Officer or Officers so impressing or taking away, or causing to be impressed or taken away, any Mariner or other Person, contrary to the Tenor and true Meaning of this Act, shall forfeit to the Master, or Owner or Owners of any such Ship or Vessel, the Sum of Fifty Pounds for every Man he or they shall so impress or take; to be recovered with full Costs of Suit in any Court of Record within any Part of his Majesty's Dominions.

unless they shall have deserted from His Majesty's Ships of War,

under Penalty of 50 *l.*

And for preventing the Desertion of any Mariners or Seamen from his Majesty's Ships of War, in any of the Parts aforesaid, to any such Trading or Privateer Ship or Vessel as aforesaid; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Master or Commander of such Trading or Privateer Ship or Vessel as aforesaid, shall, before he shall receive or entertain in any of the Parts aforesaid, any Mariner, Seaman, or other Person, to serve on Board such Privateer, or Trading Ship or Vessel, endeavour (by all the Ways and Means that he reasonably and conveniently may or can) to discover whether such Mariner, Seaman, or other Person hath deserted from any of his Majesty's Ships, or Ship of War, in any of the Parts aforesaid; and in case any such Master or Commander shall receive or entertain any Mariner, Seaman, or other Person on Board such Trading Ship or Privateer as aforesaid, without such reasonable Endeavour, for such Discovery first had and made, or which he shall know, or be informed, hath deserted from any of his Majesty's Ships, or Ship of War, in any of the Parts aforesaid, such Master or Commander shall forfeit to the King's Majesty, his Heirs, and Successors, the Sum of Fifty Pounds, for every Man he shall so receive or entertain, to be recovered with full Costs of Suit, in any Court of Record, within any Part of his Majesty's Dominions.

Masters of Privateers and Trading Vessels to inquire if such Mariner hath deserted from a Ship of War, before they entertain him, &c.

under Penalty of 50 *l.*

And for the more effectual preventing Merchant Ships or Privateers in any of the Parts aforesaid, from harbouring or entertaining any Seaman who shall desert his Majesty's Service in any of the Parts aforesaid, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the said Twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and forty six, every Master of a Merchant Ship

or Veſſel, and Commander of a Privateer, ſhall, before he ſhall ſet Sail from any Port of or belonging to the ſaid Britiſh Sugar Colonies, or any of them, deliver to the chief Officer of the Cuſtoms of the Port from whence he ſhall ſet Sail, an exact Liſt of all the Men belonging to ſuch Merchant Ship or Veſſel, or Privateer, containing their Names, Ages, and Deſcriptions of their Perſons, upon Pain that he ſhall forfeit the Sum of Ten Pounds to his Majeſty, his Heirs, and Succeſſors, for every ſuch Man he ſhall ſo receive and entertain on Board, whoſe Name ſhall not be inſerted in ſuch Liſt, to be recovered with full Coſts of Suit, in any Court of Record within any Part of his Majeſty's Dominions.

Liſts, &c. of the Men employed to be delivered to the Officer of the Port, by the Maſters, &c. of Veſſels,

on Penalty of 10*l.*

And it is hereby further enacted, That ſuch Officer of the Cuſtoms do return to ſuch Maſter or Commander an atteſted Copy of ſuch Liſt ſo delivered to him; and that upon the Death or Alteration of any Seaman, the ſaid Liſt be immediately altered, and delivered to the naval Officer, or chief Officer of the Cuſtoms, in any Port where ſuch Merchant Ship or Veſſel, or Privateer, ſhall arrive in Manner as aforeſaid; all which ſaid Liſts ſhall, from time to time, be produced and ſhewn to any of the Captains, or other Officer of any of his Majeſty's Ships of War demanding the ſame; and if any Man or Men belonging to any of his Majeſty's Ships of War ſhall be found on Board any Merchant Ship or Veſſel, or Privateer, whoſe Name ſhall not be contained in ſuch Liſt as aforeſaid; the Maſter or Commander of ſuch Veſſel or Privateer ſhall forfeit to his Majeſty, his Heirs, and Succeſſors, the Sum of Fifty Pounds, for every ſuch Man which ſhall be ſo found on Board, to be recovered in Manner as aforeſaid.

An atteſted Copy of the Liſt to be returned, &c.

The Liſts to be ſhewn to Captains of Men of War.

Men belonging to any of the Men of Wars being aboard, and not in the Liſt,

the Maſter to forfeit 50*l.*

And for the better furniſhing Seamen to ſerve on Board his Majeſty's Ships of War, which ſhall be in or about the ſeveral Parts aforeſaid in America, for annoying the Enemy, and protecting the Trade there, it is hereby further enacted, That the Maſter or Commander of every Trading Ship or Veſſel, and every Packet Boat, which ſhall, from time to time, from and after the ſaid Twenty fourth Day of June, One thouſand ſeven hundred and forty ſix, be Outward-bound, and going for any of the Parts aforeſaid in America, ſhall be and are hereby obliged (at the Deſire of any of his Majeſty's Officers thereunto lawfully authorized, and at the Charges of his Majeſty, to be paid in Manner herein after mentioned) to receive on Board, and carry to the Port or Place whereto ſuch Trading Ship, Veſſel, or Packet Boat, ſhall be ſo bound, and there deliver to ſuch Officer or Perſon to whom they ſhall be aſſigned,

Maſters of Veſſels, &c. to carry Mariners, &c. in the King's Service, to the Port the Veſſel is bound to;

any Number of Mariners, Seamen, or other Persons actually entered into His Majesty's Sea Service, and pay (over and above the Complement of Mariners or Seamen which such Trading Ship, Vessel, or Packet Boat usually carries, or which shall be sufficient for navigating the same for such intended Voyage, not exceeding the Proportion of a Fifth Part of the Number of such usual or sufficient Complement of Mariners or Seamen) upon Pain of forfeiting the Sum of Fifty Pounds, for every such Seaman or Mariner that he or they shall refuse to take on Board and carry; or, after having received on Board, shall willingly permit and suffer to escape, to be paid and recovered as aforesaid.

under Penalty of 50*l.*

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Master or Commander of every Trading Ship or Vessel, and every Packet Boat, upon receiving such Mariners, Seamen, or other Persons on Board, for His Majesty's Service, in Manner aforesaid, is hereby required to sign an Acknowledgement in Writing, of his having received such Mariners, Seamen, or other Persons on Board, in order to carry and deliver them to such Officer or Person to whom they shall be so assigned as aforesaid, and to deliver the same to such of His Majesty's Officers who shall ship the said Mariners, Seamen, or other Persons, on Board such Trading Ship, Vessel, or Packet Boat, who is to lay the same before the Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy, which such Officer is hereby required to do; and such Master or Commander of every such Trading Ship, Vessel, and Packet, shall, within Six Months after his so receiving any such Mariners, Seamen, or other Persons on Board, for His Majesty's Service, produce and deliver to the said Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy a Certificate in Writing, under the Hand of the Commander in chief of His Majesty's Ships of War in the West Indies, or of the Commander or Captain of some one of His Majesty's Ships of War in the West Indies, that such Commander or Officer hath received the said Mariners, Seamen, or other Persons on Board His Majesty's Ships, or such of them as such Commander or Officer shall receive, which Certificate such Commander in chief, or Commander or Captain of His Majesty's Ships or Ship of War in the West Indies, are hereby required to give, upon receiving on Board His Majesty's Ships or Ship, the said Mariners, Seamen, or other Persons from on Board the said Trading Ships, Vessels, and Packet; and upon producing and delivering such Certificate, the Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy are hereby authorized and required to

The Masters, &c. to sign an Acknowledgement of the Men received, &c.

to be laid before the Commissioners of the Navy.

Certificate from the Commander, &c. of the Men being received, to be produced to the Commissioners;

pay to the Master or Commander of such Trading Ship, Vessel, or Packet, for the Charges and Expences of so carrying the said Mariners, Seamen, or other Persons, at and after the Rate of Six Pence per Diem for each Mariner, Seaman, or other Person, whose Name shall be contained and set forth in the said Certificate from the Commander in chief, or Commander or Captain of His Majesty's Ships or Ship of War in the West Indies, to be so produced and delivered to the said Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy, from the Time of their being first received on Board the said Trading Ship, Vessel, or Packet, to the Time of their being so delivered and received on Board His Majesty's Ships or Ship of War in the West Indies as aforesaid.

who shall thereon pay the Charges of carrying the Men.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in case of any threatened or actual Invasion of any of His Majesty's said Colonies in America, or in case of any other unforeseen and emergent Necessity or Occasion requiring the same, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Commanders and Captains of His Majesty's Ships of War, stationed or being in any of the Parts aforesaid, with the Concurrence, Approbation, and Consent of the Governor and Commander in chief, and of the Council for the time being of the said Colonies, or any of them, but not otherwise, to impress such a Number of Mariners or Seamen to serve on Board His Majesty's said Ships of War, as shall be necessary and sufficient to make up the usual and sufficient Complement of Mariners or Seamen belonging to each of the said Ships, such Mariners or Seamen so impressed being discharged, if they require the same, so soon as the Service for which they were so impressed is performed; which Discharge each Captain of His Majesty's Ships, whom it may concern, is hereby required to give; and in case of his refusing or delaying the same, is hereby made subject and liable to pay the Penalty of Fifty Pounds to the Party aggrieved, to be recovered, with full Costs of Suit, in any Court of Record within any Part of His Majesty's Dominions; any thing herein before contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

In what Cases Mariners may be impressed;

and obtain Discharges.

FINIS.